

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR NAMES WILLIAMSON TO FILL CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY

(Jackson, Mississippi) - Governor Haley Barbour today announced the appointment of Meridian Municipal Court Judge Lester F. Williamson, Jr., to fill an unexpired term as Circuit Judge in Mississippi's 10th District. The district includes the counties of Clarke, Kemper, Lauderdale, and Wayne.

Williamson, a Meridian attorney, will serve in the post vacated when Governor Barbour appointed Circuit Judge Larry Roberts to a seat on the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

"My Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee has worked hard to ensure that a qualified, diligent, and dedicated person fills this important post," Governor Barbour said. "Lester is a man of high moral character, integrity, and years of judicial experience. I know he will be an asset to the state's judicial system and will continue his conscientious service to our citizens."

Williamson has served as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Meridian since 1989, after working four years as Municipal Court Judge Pro-Tem. He has practiced law for more than 28 years and is currently working with Wright & Williamson, PLLC, where he has been partner since 2001.

Involved in his community, Williamson is past president of the Lauderdale County Bar Association and Kiwanis Club of Meridian, and past board member of the United Way of Lauderdale County, Lauderdale County Mental Health Association, and Meridian Symphony League. Currently, he is a member of the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation and the Meridian Area Navy League. Williamson, an Eagle Scout, has also served as an adult Scout leader and member of the district committee for the Boy Scouts of America.

Williamson is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is married to the former Cathy Giles, and the couple has three children: Virginia, Lester III, and John Thomas.

Governor Barbour's Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee, which reviews the qualifications of potential judicial appointees in accordance with Executive Order 914, found Williamson fully qualified to serve in this post.

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